

CITY Visions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • NOVEMBER 2001

BE SMART FOR THE HOLIDAYS

THIS HOLIDAY season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else - but chiefly because it's a good time for crime. Think about it...

*Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts;
Stores, malls and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers;
People rushing around, stressed out and careless, trying to get everything done...
...it's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.*

IF YOU'RE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights;
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home;
- Have your neighbors pick up your newspapers and mail. Ask them to park their car in your driveway from time to time.

IF YOU'RE OUT FOR THE EVENING

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home;
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave - even if it's just for a few minutes;
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

IF YOU'RE SHOPPING

- Use the buddy system. Whenever possible go shopping with a friend or family member. Remember two people make a less attractive target than a person shopping alone;
- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you;
- Park in a well lit space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk;
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible;
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket;
- Shopping with the kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated;
- If your shopping through the internet it is important to remember that **NONE** of the credible markets require your social security number to purchase anything. Your social security number is usually only needed if you are going to "finance" a purchase.

SEE "SMART" PAGE 4

SENIORS - SAVE MONEY THROUGH PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

SENIOR CITIZENS (aged 65 or older) with a total household income of less than \$32,850 may qualify for a property tax exemption from Measure B, the ballot initiative approved by the voters last year relating to Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection. Residents must have owned and occupied a single-family home, condominium, or townhome in 2000 to be eligible.

You can pick up a 2001 Application for the Low-Income Seniors Special Tax Exemption at the City Clerk's office located at 17555 Peak Avenue. Should you have questions regarding this Santa Clara Valley Water District Program, please contact Ms. Mala Magill at 265-2607, extension 2000. Applications must be returned to the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Senior Exemption Program, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118-3614. ☎

Article by Irma Torrez, City Clerk, 779-7259

The Rec Room

END OF YEAR RECREATION CLASSES

There is still space available in the following classes; Beginning Watercolor Class on Saturday, November 10, from 10 - noon; Parent's Night Out and Kid's Super Santa Workshop, Friday, November 30, from 6-9 pm and Friday, December 14, from 6 - 9 pm; Safesitters Certificate Program for teens will be on Tuesday, December 18 and Thursday, December 20, 9am - 4:30pm. (both days are required).

HOTLINE TO SANTA

Santa and his elves want to know what your child wants for Christmas. He will call your child from the North Pole on Tuesday, Dec. 11, between 5:30 & 7:30 pm. Just complete a Hotline To Santa request form available from City Hall after November 19th or on the City's website. Submit completed forms to the Recreation Division by December 5th. Limited time offer, for all good children.

MOBILE REC VAN PARTY PROGRAM

Want to do something different and unique for your child's birthday? Try the Mobile Recreation Van Party Program. Staff will lead sports, games, and craft activities for one to two hours in one of the city's parks or skate park. Recommended ages 5-11.

Please contact the City Recreation Division at 779-7271 for more detailed information on any the above classes or programs or on-line at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/public.htm ☞

Article by Theresa Luggert, Recreation Supervisor,
779-7271 or Luggert@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

ARE YOU THE NEXT VICTIM?

THEFTS FROM vehicles was the most frequently reported crime reported in Morgan Hill last year. A total of \$219,704 dollars in property taken in the 319 cases of theft from vehicles reported last year. This statistic says a lot about Morgan Hill. It says that in Morgan Hill you can feel safe in your home and on the street, but that you can't take for granted that you will not be a victim of a crime.

Vehicle burglary is a crime of opportunity. What better opportunity could present itself than a car parked in a dark or remote place that is filled with valuables. While the officers on patrol do everything possible to reduce the opportunities for crime, the Police Department also rely on you to do what you can to discourage a thief in waiting. It only takes a minute to break into a home and takes even less to break into a vehicle. The easiest way to keep yourself from becoming a victim is to make it harder for the criminal to do his job. It is time to take the opportunity away from the criminal. These simple suggestions can be a powerful tool in protecting your valuable asset.

1. **Lock your car.** Even when you are just going into the store or house for a minute.
2. **Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.** Taking your valuable laptop's, cell phones, cameras, wallets and purses out of the car when you lock up makes you a less attractive victim. If there is no obvious gain to breaking into your car the criminal will choose a much more lucrative prospect. Criminals know that they have a high risk profession and have no desire to be caught for nothing. There is always someone else that will give them the opportunity.
3. **Park your car in a well lit area.** Criminals do not like to be in the spot light when they are committing a crime. ☞

Article by Debbie Simon Emergency Services Coordinator, 776-7310.

AVOID THE 13

The holiday season is once again upon us. This is the time for family and friends to gather and celebrate. Often alcohol is a part of the celebration and, unfortunately, some people elect to drive after consuming alcohol. This year, as in the past, our police department will be participating in the Avoid the 13 Campaign. Avoid the 13 is our County's holiday law enforcement crackdown against drinking drivers. Now in its 26th year, it is regarded as a national model for police campaigns against drinking and driving and has been duplicated in six other areas. The campaign runs from the week-end before Christmas to the day after New Year's Day.

SEE "AVOID" PAGE 4

Community Center Groundbreaking



(Photos) Above: Morgan Hill City Council takes a "hands on" approach to the Community Center Groundbreaking Ceremony. Below: Children enjoy arts and crafts while Mayor Dennis Kennedy kicks off the ceremony with a warm welcome.



AT LONG LAST, THE MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY CENTER IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION! THE CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER LOCAL DIGNITARIES WERE ON HAND FOR THE CENTER'S GROUNDBREAKING ON OCTOBER 20TH. NEARLY ONE-THOUSAND LOCAL RESIDENTS ATTENDED THE FESTIVITIES WHICH INCLUDED GAMES, A RAFFLE, AND A GREAT SAMPLING OF FOOD FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS.

Look for the Community Center's Grand Opening Next Year!

*The City of Morgan Hill
would like to thank the
following event sponsors:*

*Bob Snow
Culinary Express
DPR Construction
El Toro Brewery
El Toro Taqueria
Gavilan College
Giancarlo's
Golden Oak Restaurant
House of Siam
House of Bagels
Indian Curry House
Julie Arthrop
Juz Juz
Le Bistro
Maurizio's
Mezza Luna
Millennium Gourmet
Moon's Kitchen
My Pizza
New Directions Sign Service
Nob Hill Foods
Palmina's Cheeseria Pizzeria
Papa John's Pizza
Pizza Hut
Progressive Catering
Quin's Cafe of Morgan Hill
Roses 4 U Carnations 2
Rosy's at the Beach
Round Table Pizza - Morgan Hill
Safeway - Morgan Hill
Skooter's Ice Cream Parlor
South Side Market
Spero's Courtyard Restaurant
Swift Pizza
Sweet Retreat
The King & I
Togo's
Trail Dust BBQ
Wild Rose House of Taste*

Plan Ahead For Recycling Your Christmas Tree



First, don't buy a flocked tree. They can't be recycled and expose our environment to unnecessary chemicals. Consider buying a living tree and reusing it each year.

Once your living tree is too big to use in your home, you can plant it in the yard. Be creative. You don't necessarily have to use a pine tree for your holiday centerpiece.

Trees can always be recycled through the yard waste collection program. However, from December 26 through January 11, weekly collection is provided.

Start by removing all ornaments including tinsel. Then cut your tree into 3'x3' sections and leave next to your garbage can on your collection day.

If you have questions on preparing your yard waste for collection, please contact South Valley Disposal & Recycling at 842-3358.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Garbage and recycling services will be on a normal schedule during Thanksgiving week. Just as in the past, there will not be collection services on Christmas and New Year's Day. For both of these weeks, service will be delayed by one day for all customers. In other words, if your normal collection day is Wednesday, it will be on Thursday for these two weeks. Friday customers will receive service on Saturday.

"AVOID" FROM PAGE 2

The Morgan Hill Police Department will have teams of special DUI enforcement cars. These officers's sole responsibility will be the enforcement of the State's drunk driving laws. In addition, we will be conducting at least two DUI check points. The dates and times of the checkpoints will be announced in the local media sometime prior to the event. Last year our checkpoints took 39 impaired drivers off Morgan Hill streets.

Our goal this year is to make our streets free of DUI drivers. You can help by choosing a designated driver if your plans involve the use of alcohol. If you witness a suspected drunk driver, report it to the police. Obtain the vehicle's description, license number and last direction of travel. The Police Department does not encourage following a suspected drunk driver. Drive carefully and be smart - don't let an arrest or accident be a part of your holiday memories. 🚓

Article by Sergeant Rick Rodriguez, 779-2101.

"SMART" FROM PAGE 1

IF A STRANGER COMES TO THE DOOR, BEWARE

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts or solicitors. It is not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

TAKE A HOLIDAY INVENTORY LIST...AND CHECK IT TWICE

The holidays are a good time to update or create your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Make sure things like TV's, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders,

sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. Think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.

Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody - except the criminals. 🚓

Article by Debbie Simon Emergency Services Coordinator, 776-7310.

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING GUIDE

See page six (mailing side of newsletter) for upcoming meeting changes and cancellation Notice.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	11/7 7PM Live 11/08 NOON REPLAY 11/10 8PM REPLAY 11/11 NOON REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	11/14 7PM Live* 11/15 NOON REPLAY 11/17 8PM REPLAY 11/18 NOON REPLAY
JOINT REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/CITY COUNCIL MEETING	11/28 7PM Live 11/29 NOON REPLAY 12/01 8PM REPLAY 12/02 NOON REPLAY

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	11/13 7PM Live 11/14 NOON REPLAY 11/17 NOON REPLAY 11/18 8PM REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	11/27 7PM Live 11/28 NOON REPLAY 12/01 NOON REPLAY 12/02 8PM REPLAY

SPARKEY'S FIRE SAFETY FOR EVERYONE 7AM, 9:30AM & 4:00PM DAILY

THE OLD MORGAN HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 7:30AM, 10AM & 4:30PM DAILY

FUGITIVE WATCH 8:30AM, 11AM & 5:30PM DAILY

*TENTATIVE MEETING (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

COMPOST WORKSHOP • NOVEMBER 17

Attendees of Morgan Hill's Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, November 17th, from 9-11 AM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY • NOVEMBER 22 & 23

City offices closed. Regular garbage and recycling service.

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR Dennis Kennedy	779-7259
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE Greg Sellers	778-2370
COUNCILMEMBER Larry Carr	779-9622
COUNCILMEMBER Hedy L. Chang	778-0511
COUNCILMEMBER Steve Tate	779-6992
CITY CLERK Irma Torrez	779-7259
CITY TREASURER Michael Roorda	778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER J. Edward Tewes
CITY ATTORNEY Helene L. Leichter
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER Melissa Stevenson Dile
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER Anthony Eulo
BUSINESS ASSISTANCE/HOUSING SERVICES DIRECTOR Garrett Toy
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR David Bischoff
COUNCIL SERVICES AND RECORDS MANAGER Irma Torrez
FINANCE DIRECTOR Jack Dilles
HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR Mary Kaye Fisher
POLICE CHIEF Steve Schwab
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Jim Ashcraft
RECREATION MANAGER Julie Spier

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117
City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@cb.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

THE CITY Council meets on a regular basis on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The City Council also serves as the City's Redevelopment Agency. The Redevelopment Agency meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. All regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

At their meeting of October 5, 2001, the City Council adopted the following November, December and January meeting schedule:

NOVEMBER 2001	NOVEMBER 7 @ 7:00 P.M. - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 28 @ 7:00 P.M. - REGULAR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING	
DECEMBER 2001	DECEMBER 5 @ 7:00 P.M. - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12 @ 6:00 P.M. - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING	
JANUARY 2002	JANUARY 9 @ 7:00 P.M. - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16 @ 7:00 P.M. - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
JANUARY 23 @ 7:00 P.M. - REGULAR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING	
JANUARY 30 @ 5:00 P.M. - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING	

Note: The November 17, 2001; December 19, 2001; December 26, 2001; and January 2, 2002 City Council/Redevelopment Agency meetings have been cancelled. The City Council may schedule special meetings in order to discuss important City/Redevelopment Agency business. These meetings will be posted and subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

2001 GIVING TREE

THE CITY of Morgan Hill is pleased to once again join with Community Solutions in the Giving Tree/Love Baskets program. Community Solutions has provided food and gifts during the holiday season for some of the neediest families in our community for over 17 years. Last year 574 children and adults from 123 families in South Santa Clara County benefitted from the generosity of the community.

The Giving Tree at City Hall will be up on Monday, December 3rd. Citizens and staff are encouraged to participate by selecting a name from the tree and returning gifts by December 14th.

Article by Karen Lengsfeld, Volunteer Services Coordinator, 779-7278.

INSIDE

- HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY
- TAX SAVINGS FOR SENIORS
- GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION
- AVOID THE 13
- CITY CONTACT NUMBERS

CITY VISIONS
CITY OF MORGAN HILL
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